

shall show the reasons for the relief requested and the facts relied upon, and if the facts are subject to dispute the application shall be supported by affidavits or other sworn statements or copies thereof. The applicant must be a person served by the affected post office. Immediate notice of the application shall be given to all parties to the proceeding. The application shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

(b) *Answer and filing of the relevant record by the U.S. Postal Service.* Within 10 days after the application for suspension is filed, the Postal Service shall file with the Secretary of the Commission and serve on the petitioners an answer to the application supported by affidavits or other sworn statements or copies thereof. The Postal Service, within 10 days from the date of filing of the application, shall file with the Secretary such parts of the record as are relevant to the relief sought.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.115 Participant statement or brief.

(a) *Participant statement.* Upon the filing of the petition for review of a decision to close or consolidate a post office, the Secretary shall furnish the petitioner with a copy of PRC Form 61, a form designed to permit the appellant to make a concise statement of his/her arguments in support of the petition and the instructions regarding its use. In addition to eliciting this information, the instructions for Form 61 shall provide: (1) Notification that, if the appellant prefers, he or she may file a brief as described in paragraph (b) of this section presenting the arguments, in lieu of completing PRC Form 61; (2) a concise explanation of the purpose of the form; and (3) notification that the completed form, or a brief as described in paragraph (b) of this section, in lieu thereof, must be filed with the Commission not more than 35 days following the date of filing of the petition (which date shall be set forth, as it appears in the Commission's records).

(b) *Appellant's initial brief.* The initial brief of the appellant shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission

and served on all parties 35 days after the filing of the petition for review of a decision to close or consolidate a post office. The brief will be limited in length to 30 pages, typewritten and double spaced, and shall include the following in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index with page references, and a list of all cases and authorities relied upon, arranged alphabetically, with references to the pages where the citation appears (which need not be included in the page count);

(2) A concise statement of the case from the viewpoint of the filing participant;

(3) A clear, concise and definitive statement of the position of the author as to the merits of the determination under review;

(4) A discussion of the evidence, reasons, and authorities relied upon with exact references to the record and the authorities; and

(5) Proposed holding with appropriate references to the record or the prior discussion of the evidence and authorities relied upon, and to the appellate criteria of section 404(b)(5) of the Act.

Briefs before the Commission shall be completely self-contained and shall not incorporate by reference any portion of any other brief, pleading or document. Testimony and exhibits shall not be quoted or included in briefs except for short excerpts pertinent to the argument presented.

(c) *Answering brief of the Postal Service.* The answering brief of the Postal Service shall be filed 20 days after the date designated for filing of the appellant's brief and shall follow the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Reply by appellant.* The appellant may file a written response to the brief of the Postal Service 15 days after the date designated for filing of that brief, which shall be strictly limited in content to reply to arguments made by the Postal Service. If presented as a brief, such reply brief shall conform to the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) *Intervenor statements or briefs.* An intervenor shall file its brief within the time allowed for initial and reply, or answering, briefs, as appropriate. The

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Secretary shall furnish to each intervenor a copy of PRC Form 61 as soon as intervenor status is granted. If the intervenor chooses to file a brief, the brief shall follow the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

[42 FR 10993, Feb. 25, 1977, as amended at 48 FR 33707, July 25, 1983; 58 FR 38976, 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.116 Oral argument.

Oral argument will be held in these appeal cases only when a party has made a showing that, owing to unusual circumstances, oral argument is a necessary addition to the written filings. Any request for oral argument shall be filed within 7 days of the date on which reply briefs are due. If a request for oral argument is granted, it will be held at the Postal Rate Commission's offices at 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268-0001.

[48 FR 33708, July 25, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.117 Posting of documents by Postal Service for inspection by affected postal patrons.

In all proceedings conducted pursuant to this subpart H, the Postal Service shall cause to be displayed prominently, in the post office or offices serving the patrons affected by the determination to close or consolidate a post office which is under review, a copy of the service list and all pleadings, notices, orders, briefs and opinions filed in such proceedings. Failure by the Postal Service to display prominently any such document shall be deemed sufficient reason to suspend the effectiveness of the Postal Service determination under review until final disposition of the appeal.

[42 FR 10993, Feb. 25, 1977. Redesignated at 48 FR 33708, July 25, 1983]

Subpart I—Rules for Expedited Review to Allow Market Tests of Proposed Mail Classification Changes

SOURCE: 66 FR 54441, Oct. 29, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3001.161 Applicability.

(a) This section and §§ 3001.162 through 3001.166 apply in cases in which the Postal Service requests a recommended decision pursuant to section 3623 preceded by testing in the market in order to develop information necessary to support a permanent change. The requirements and procedures specified in these sections apply exclusively to the Commission's determination to recommend in favor of or against a market test proposed by the Postal Service, and do not supersede any other rules applicable to the Postal Service's request for recommendation of a permanent change in mail classification. In administering this subpart, it shall be the policy of the Commission to recommend market tests that are reasonably calculated to produce information needed to support a permanent change in mail classification, and that are reasonably limited in scope, scale, duration, and potential adverse impact. Except in extraordinary circumstances and for good cause shown, the Commission shall not recommend market tests of more than one year in duration; however, this limitation is not intended to bar the Postal Service from conducting more than one market test in support of a potential permanent change in mail classification in appropriate circumstances.

(b) This section and §§ 3001.162 through 3001.166 are effective November 28, 2001 through November 28, 2006.

§ 3001.162 Filing of market test proposal and supporting direct evidence.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on a change in mail classification preceded by testing in the market, the Postal Service shall file with the Commission, in addition to its request for a permanent change in mail classification pursuant to section 3623, a request for a recommended decision in favor of its proposed market test of the requested change in mail classification. Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons